

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

What Is Claimed Is:

1. (currently amended) A kit for diagnosing a condition of early vascular dysfunction and/or vascular disease and/or spontaneous abortion, said kit comprising _____ means for testing the presence and/or the concentration of antibodies to Platelet Activating Factor (PAF) and/or antibodies to an antigen ~~capable of binding that binds~~ to antibodies to PAF in a sample of body fluid of a patient to be tested for early vascular dysfunction and/or vascular disease and/or spontaneous abortion; and _____ means for determining from the assayed concentration of either or both of said antibodies whether or not the patient is at risk for having cardiovascular disease and/or early atherosclerosis and/or spontaneous abortion.

2. (currently amended) A kit for diagnosing early vascular dysfunction and/or vascular disease and/or spontaneous abortion that ~~utilizes~~ comprises several diagnostic indicators for said disease or condition, wherein antibodies to PAF and/or antibodies to an antigen ~~capable of binding that binds~~ to antibodies to PAF is one of them.

3. (currently amended) The kit of claim 1 adapted for diagnosing of cardiovascular disease.

4. (original) The kit of claim 3 wherein said diagnosing of a cardiovascular disease comprises a diagnosis of early atherosclerosis, hypertension or thrombosis.

5. (currently amended) The kit of claim 1 wherein said means for testing the presence and /or the concentration of antibodies to PAF and/or of antibodies to an antigen ~~capable of binding that binds~~ to antibodies to PAF comprises means for measuring either or both of said antibodies by immunoassay.

6. (currently amended) The kit of claim 1 wherein said means for testing the ~~present~~ presence and/or the concentration of antibodies to PAF and/or of antibodies to an antigen that binds ~~capable of binding~~ to antibodies to PAF comprises measuring either or both of said antibodies by an enzyme linked immunosorbent assay.

7. (currently amended) The kit of claim 1 wherein said means for testing the presence and/or the concentration of antibodies to PAF and/or of antibodies to an antigen that binds ~~capable of binding~~ to antibodies to PAF comprises means

for providing measuring either or both of said antibodies by radioimmunoassay.

8. (currently amended) The kit of claim 1 wherein said means for testing is adapted to act on said sample of body fluid which is serum prepared from a blood sample.

9. (currently amended) The kit of claim 1 wherein said means for testing is adapted to act on said sample of body fluid which is plasma prepared from a blood sample.

10. (currently amended) The kit of claim 1 wherein said sample of body fluid is a human blood sample or fraction thereof, and said means for testing the presence and/or the concentration of antibodies to PAF and/or of antibodies to an antigen ~~capable of binding~~ that binds to antibodies to PAF comprises measuring either or both of said antibodies by immunoassay.

11. (currently amended) The kit of claim 1, wherein said antigen ~~capable of binding~~ that binds to antibodies to PAF is phosphocholine.

12. (currently amended) The kit of claim 1, wherein said antigen ~~capable of binding~~ that binds to antibodies to PAF is phosphorylcholine.

13. (currently amended) The kit of claim 1,
wherein said antigen ~~capable of binding~~ that binds to
antibodies to PAF is phosphatidylcholine.

14. (currently amended) The kit of claim 1,
wherein said antigen ~~capable of binding~~ that binds to
antibodies to PAF is lysophosphatidylcholine.

15. (currently amended) The kit of claim 2,
wherein said antigen ~~capable of binding~~ that binds to
antibodies to PAF is selected from the group consisting of
phosphocoline, phosphorycholine, phosphatidylcholine and
lysophosphatidylcholine.

16. (currently amended) The kit of claim 5,
wherein said antigen ~~capable of binding~~ that binds to
antibodies to PAF is selected from the group consisting of
phosphocoline, phosphorycholine, phosphatidylcholine and
lysophosphatidylcholine.

17. (currently amended) The kit of claim 6,
wherein said antigen ~~capable of binding~~ that binds to
antibodies to PAF is selected from the group consisting of
phosphocoline, phosphorycholine, phosphatidylcholine and
lysophosphatidylcholine.

18. (currently amended) The kit of claim 7,
| wherein said antigen ~~capable of binding~~ that binds to
antibodies to PAF is selected from the group consisting of
phosphocoline, phosphorycholine, phosphatidylcholine and
lysophosphatidylcholine.

19. (currently amended) The kit of claim 10,
| wherein said antigen ~~capable of binding~~ that binds to
antibodies to PAF is selected from the group consisting of
phosphocoline, phosphorycholine, phosphatidylcholine and
lysophosphatidylcholine.